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Cc: Max Rosen[max_rosen@ios.doi.gov]; Brown, Matthew[matthew.brown@uchastings.edu]; Richman, Lance[Richman.Lance@epa.gov]
From: Port, Patricia
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 3:39:43 PM
Subject: Fwd: Park Prepares For Contaminated Waters From Mine Spill

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Yagley, Jane** <jane_yagley@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 12, 2015 at 7:01 AM
Subject: Fwd: Park Prepares For Contaminated Waters From Mine Spill
To: Robert Stewart <Robert_F_Stewart@ios.doi.gov>, Stephen Spencer <Stephen_Spencer@ios.doi.gov>, Patricia Port <Patricia_Port@ios.doi.gov>

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From: **Tansey, Thomas** <thomas_tansey@nps.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 12, 2015 at 9:56 AM
Subject: Park Prepares For Contaminated Waters From Mine Spill
To: James Haas <James_Haas@nps.gov>, D L Anderson <D_L_Anderson@nps.gov>, F Hitchcock <ann_hitchcock@nps.gov>, Carol McCoy <carol_mccoy@nps.gov>, Bruce Peacock <Bruce_Peacock@nps.gov>
Cc: Jane Yagley <jane_yagley@ios.doi.gov>, David Behler <david_behler@ios.doi.gov>, John Nelson <john_nelson@ios.doi.gov>, Jeffrey Olson <jeffrey_olson@nps.gov>

Park Prepares For Contaminated Waters From Mine Spill

By Katie Wood
August 12, 2015

The park has received numerous inquiries from local residents and park visitors regarding the effects of the Gold King Mine spill on waters within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

On August 5th, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was conducting an investigation of the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, to assess the on-going water releases from the mine, treat mine water, and assess the feasibility of further mine remediation.

While excavating loose material that had collapsed into the cave entry, pressurized water began leaking above the mine tunnel, spilling about three million gallons of water stored behind the collapsed material into a tributary of the Animas River.

The contaminated wastewater has not yet reached Lake Powell or the San Juan River within Glen Canyon.

“We have not received information from the EPA indicating that we need to modify our operations due to health concerns related to the quality of water heading towards our park,” said Superintendent, Todd Brindle. There are currently no closures in effect on Lake Powell.

The EPA has advised that the leading edge of the plume was last reported as east of Shiprock, New Mexico, and is no longer visible due to dilution and sediment levels in the river.

Several state and federal agencies, including the NPS, will be monitoring waters within Glen Canyon to assess potential effects associated with the plume from the Gold King Mine release. These stations will test for water quality parameters such as: conductivity, drinking water standards, sediments and metals. Samples will be collected in Lake Powell, the San Juan River, and downstream of the Glen Canyon Dam near Lees Ferry.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available. Glen Canyon has established a hotline to provide the most current visitor information at (928) 608-6404.

The response to the incident is being managed by EPA. For more information, click on this link: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>.

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